



NEWS RELEASE

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New Special Olympics Hawaii Sports and Wellness Center is a Game Changer for Local Athletes with Intellectual Disabilities

The new center is the first center of its kind in the state of Hawaii specifically dedicated to and designed for athletes with intellectual disabilities

Sports and Wellness Center Photos and Videos: <https://we.tl/t-qfpBGSUWtG>
Photo Credit: Special Olympics Hawaii

HONOLULU – Special Olympics Hawaii athletes have a new “home court” in Kapolei. Located adjacent to the Kroc Center at 91-610 Maunakapu Street, Ewa Beach, HI 96706, the Special Olympics Hawaii Sports and Wellness Center recently opened this month with plans to serve more than 3,400 athletes from around the state and provide athletes access to a range of services, including sports training and competitions, physical examinations, oral health screening, vision testing, sports skills assessments and other sports medicine disciplines. The center was designed to create a safe, inclusive gathering place for athletes of all abilities, their family and friends, coaches and volunteers. An official, public grand opening event will be held later this fall.

“Not only will the new center foster inclusion while creating a space dedicated for athletes with intellectual disabilities, but it also gives us the opportunity to expand our services – specifically on the underserved west side of Oahu – that may have not been involved with or had access to our programs previously,” said Dan Epstein, president and CEO of Special Olympics Hawaii.

While a great deal of work is done, there is still some construction that needs to be completed, including the building of a warehouse that would provide athletes an area for powerlifting and fitness training, and provide space for equipment storage, as well as an outdoor basketball/multi-purpose court for athlete training and Youth Athlete activities. If you would like to make a donation and help Special Olympics Hawaii complete work on this facility, please mail a check to P.O. Box 3295 Honolulu, HI 96801 or contact Dan Epstein at 808-386-5232.

The 2.455-acre space features a roughly 3,000 square-foot building that includes office space and multi-purpose classroom space for meetings and volunteer training, a grass field for soccer, flag football, bocce and some track and field events, a mini track and a running long jump area. Special Olympics Hawaii's program headquarters has also relocated to and will operate out of the center.

Special Olympics Hawaii is thankful to its donors and partners statewide who have stepped up to the plate to make the center a reality. A donor wall is currently being created that will list supporters who have donated to the facility and will be unveiled during the grand opening. If you would like to make a donation and be a part of the donor wall, Special Olympics Hawaii is accepting individual tile purchases for \$1,000 each. A special mahalo to these sponsors who have made a donation of \$100,000 or more:

State of Hawaii Grant in Aide - \$3,200,000

- City & County of Honolulu – CDBG - \$1,000,000
- The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation - \$500,000
- The James & Abigail Campbell Family Foundation - \$300,000
- McNerny Foundation - \$200,000
- Atherton Family Foundation - \$100,000
- Hawaii Dental Service - \$100,000
- Jim Schuler, Family Foundation / DR Horton - \$100,000
- Dr. John and LeighAnn Frattarelli - \$100,000
- Sam and Mary Castle Foundation - \$100,000

Special Olympics Hawaii provides year-round sports programs and training for athletes with intellectual disabilities, free of charge. Since 1968 Special Olympics has been changing attitudes about the talents of people with intellectual disabilities and raising awareness to build an inclusive and unified community.

For more information on Special Olympics, please visit www.sohawaii.org. You can also follow Special Olympics Hawaii on Twitter at www.twitter.com/sohawaii, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SpecialOlympicsHawaii, and on Instagram at www.instagram.com/SOHawaii.

About Special Olympics Hawaii

Special Olympics is a global inclusion movement using sport, health, education, and leadership programs every day around the world to end discrimination against and empower people with intellectual disabilities. [Founded in 1968](#), Special Olympics Hawaii has grown to serve more than 5,196 athletes and Unified partners on every island in our state. With the support of more than

10,800 coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics delivers [10 Olympic-type sports](#) and over 50 games and competitions throughout the year. Special Olympics is supported by individuals, foundations and corporate partners.

There is never a fee to any athlete or family to participate in Special Olympics programs. Engage with us on: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). Learn more at www.SOHawaii.org.

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